

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 AID-05 HEW-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /050 W

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O R 021430Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3199

INFO DOD

JCS

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

RUMJKOXAMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 6042

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3353

FOR IATF, TAFT FROM MCMANAWAY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF VS SN

SUBJ: QUOTAS FOR REFUGEES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. TEAM HAS NOW COMPLETED PLANNED VISITS TO HONG KONG, THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE. WE HAVE ALSO CONFERRED BY PHONE WITH EMBASSY STAFF IN KOREA AND TAIWAN.

2. BASED ON THESE VISITS AND TELCONS, TEAM HAS DEVELOPED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO ALLOCATION OF DEFINITE QUOTAS FOR EACH LOCATION IN SE ASIA. THESE ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES ARE SUFFICIENTLY VARIED AND WE BELIEVE HAVE IMPORTANT ENOUGH POLICY IMPLICATIONS TO WARRANT FULL DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO FINAL DECISIONS.

3. TEAM'S FINDINGS DO PERMIT, HOWEVER, AN INTERIM ALLOCATION THAT WILL PERMIT US TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM WHERE WE HAVE IT
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AND START MOVING WHERE WE ARE NOT MOVING NOW.

4. BRIEFLY, WE HAVE FOUND THAT, WITH IMPORTANT EXCEPTION OF THAILAND, OUR PROBLEMS IN SE ASIA ARE MORE MANAGEABLE THAN THOUGHT AT THE OUTSET. THE OVERALL NUMBER OF REFUGEES NOW ESTIMATED TO MEET NON-EXPANDED CRITERIA IS NOT AS LARGE AS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT. IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS THIRD COUNTRIES ARE DOING MORE THAN WE HAD PERCEIVED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PROBLEM IN THAILAND IS, IF ANYTHING, MORE SEVERE.

5. THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS THAT ARGUE AGAINST MAKING FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON: (1) WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT NUMBERS ARE FIRM IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS, AND (2) WE BELIEVE A CAREFUL DEFINITION IS NEEDED ON THE HIGH RISK CATEGORY BEFORE PROMULGATING GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON.

6. CONSEQUENTLY, TEAM PROPOSES TO HOLD IN ABEYANCE RECOMMENDATIONS ON DEFINITIVE ALLOCATIONS UNTIL OUR RETURN TO WASHINGTON AND INSTEAD, BASED ON TELCON WITH IATF/WASHINGTON, HAS ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING INTERIM QUOTAS; LIMITED TO REFUGEES WHO MEET THE NON-EXPANDED CRITERIA OF RELATIVES OR USG EMPLOYEES: KOREA, 200; TAIWAN, 100; HONG KONG, 900; THAILAND, 2000; MALAYSIA, 700; SINGAPORE, 160; TOTAL, 4060.

7. THESE RECOMMENDED INTERIM QUOTAS APPLY TO ALL REFUGEES DEPARTING SE ASIA AFTER 22 JULY.

8. IN ADDITION, HOLD ON PLANNED 8 AUGUST FLIGHT FOR MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE AND ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS FOR THAILAND SHOULD BE RELEASED.
HOLDRIDGE

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